

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W

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O R 280910Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO/WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3574

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 11751

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. ROUTE 4, CAMBODIA'S HIGHWAY TO THE SEA, WAS REOPENED AT FIVE O'CLOCK SATURDAY AFTERNOON AS GOVERNMENT INFANTRY SUPPORTED BY ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS DROVE THE COMMUNISTS FROM THE ROAD. FANK SAID IT SUFFERED LIGHT CASUALTIES IN THE OPERATION WHILE ENEMY LOSSES WERE MODERATE TO HEAVY. ROAD CONVOYS ARE EXPECTED TO RESUME SHORTLY.

2. THERE WAS A SHARP INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMMUNIST SHELLING ATTACKS AT KOMPONG CHAM FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY MORNING BUT NO GROUND WAS LOST TO THE ENEMY. MEANWHILE AT THE ISOLATED GARRISONS OF TRAM KHAR AND SRANG IN THE ROUTE 3 AREA SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH, A CONTINUED DECREASE IN COMMUNIST PRESSURE WAS NOTED WITH FANK REPORTING ONLY VERY LIGHT CASUALTIES IN THE LAST 24 HOURS.

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3. COORDINATED GROUND ATTACKS BY COMMUNIST FORCES FRIDAY

NIGHT ON THE SOUTHERN DEFENSIVE PERIMETER OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF TAKEO CAUSED LIGHT FANK CASUALTIES. FANK LINES HELD FIRM, HOWEVER, AND THE ENEMY WAS FORCED TO WITHDRAW.

4. IN ROUTE 5 ACTION, THE SITUATION AT TUK LAK REMAINS UNCHANGED BUT IS SOMEWHAT IMPROVED AT SALA LEK PRAM TO THE SOUTH. FANK REPORTS THAT ITS 7TH DIVISION TROOPS HAVE PUSHED THE ENEMY BACK OUT OF MORTAR RANGE OF THE TOWN.

5. TWO COMMUNIST ATTACKS AGAINST A KHMER NAVY RESUPPLY CONVOY BY RIVER SATURDAY FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG TO ISOLATED KOMPONG THOM 135 KILOMETERS NORTH OF PHNOM PENH RESULTED IN NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE TO THE SHIPS. THIS CONVOY, THE FIRST TO KOMPONG THOM THIS YEAR, REACHED ITS DESTINATION AT DUSK. AT THE SAME TIME, A MEKONG CONVOY OF 4 CARGO SHIPS, 3 POL VESSELS AND A TUG PULLING A RICE BARGE ARRIVED SAFELY SATURDAY NIGHT IN PHNOM PENH FROM SOUTH VIETNAM.

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